

J. BUCHANAN ELMORE  
AT ENGLISH'S THEATERHE WAS DELIGHTED WITH PER-  
FORMANCE OF "BEN-HUR."

## SOME CRITICISMS OFFERED

He Thinks He Would Make the  
Actors "Speak Softer and Not  
be so Rough."James Buchanan Elmore, famous in  
song and story as "The Bard of Alamo,"  
is within the city's gates. He came last  
night on a special train from Crawfords-  
ville. Before the train came to a standstill  
a party of students from Wabash College  
jumped on the station platform, grouped

Scriptures," whispered the poet. "Did I  
tell you about my book going to be  
played?" he said to his companion. "Yes,"  
I signed the contract to-day to have it  
acted up for the stage. One of the boys  
over to Wabash College is going to make  
my book, 'A Lover in Cuba,' into a play,  
and I made him sign a contract to fix it  
up in a good workmanlike manner."  
"A college man is going to dramatize it,"  
he said.

"Oh yes, yes, I didn't want to go into  
it at first, but I thought about how Gen-  
eral Wallace had made a good deal out  
of the play of 'Ben-Hur,' so I talked it  
over with my wife and then I decided to  
let it go for a play."  
The curtain again. It was the scene on  
the housetop of the palace of Hur.

Would Have Changed It.

"I believe I would have changed that  
scene," commented the bard, after the cur-  
tain disclosed Judah in the clutches of  
the soldiers and Tirzah and her mother  
had been borne away to bondage. "Seems  
to me if I was basing that show I would  
make the actors speak softer and not so  
rough. It don't seem like Scripture  
voices, and hasn't got that mellowness  
that it ought to have. I would make  
them speak softer and not be so rough."  
The gallery scene came.

"Now, that's fine!" said the poet, en-

thral School for lack of another home.  
She is a niece of Mrs. Elmore.

Mr. Elmore's petition is signed by the  
Judge of the Circuit Court, by A. B. An-  
derson and by several other leading citi-  
zens of Montgomery county. Mr. Elmore  
offers to take the girl into his home and  
make her one of his family. On condition  
that he do this the signatures of Mont-  
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Elmore is a well-to-do farmer, being  
worth about \$25,000. It is said. He has  
three children, but a daughter is married,  
one son teaches school and the other son  
is still at home.

Excitement of the Race.

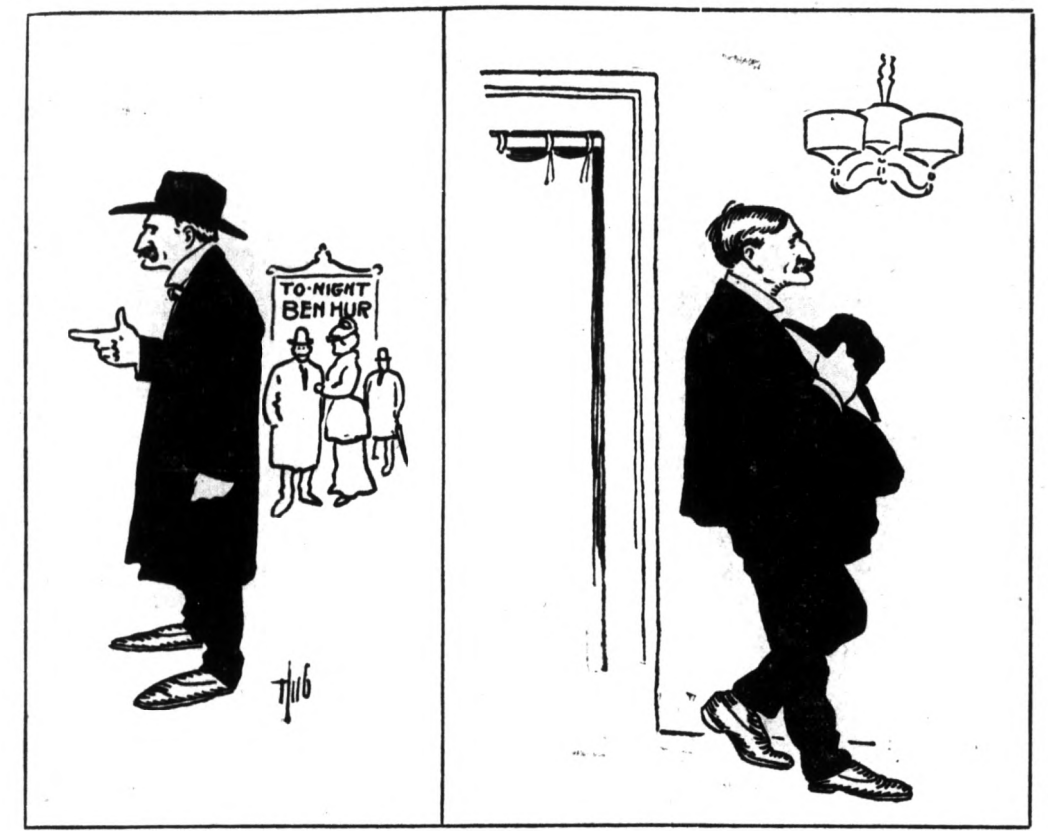
The poet then swung into the excite-  
ment of the race:

"Hurrah! Hurrah! They go! And Benjamin is  
forcing ahead!"  
Cheer after cheer was echoed with fear as  
the most beautiful scene that one could behold.  
And the race of Ben-Hur will ever be told.

"The horses are running with nostrils spread  
wide to nature it is. Remember the  
lines? Something like this:

"Hail, Benjamin Hur! Where goest thou?  
Like a divorced wife to the stage just now.  
What is to be done that you are so arrayed?  
The show has just begun on dress parade."

O say, isn't it a beautiful guide?



J. BUCHANAN ELMORE, THE POET OF ALAMO, IND., COMES TO TOWN TO SEE "BEN-HUR."

and gave an Elmore yell, thus heralding  
the approach of the singer of old Ripley  
township, Montgomery county.

"Rah! Rah! Rah!  
Rah! Rah! Rah!  
Bard of Alamo!  
Rah! Rah! Rah!  
James B. Elmore!"

Elmore came to see the performance of  
'Ben-Hur.' The train on which he trav-  
eled was one chartered for the occasion by  
the Tribe of Ben-Hur, of Crawfords-  
ville. When the college students on the  
train discovered Elmore they immediately  
formed a literary and song coterie en-  
route. Elmore sang and the boys sang.  
Elmore recited and the boys applauded.  
When the bard passed through the gates  
at the Union station a good-night yell was  
given him by the college boys, and then  
the great city claimed the singer. Elmore  
looked cautiously around him and then in-  
quired for a stockyard car.

"I thought I'd go and take supper  
with a relative that lives out by the stock-  
yards," said the poet. "Then I'm coming  
back to the show."

Standing Room Only.

At 7:45 o'clock Elmore entered the the-  
ater.

"Where are your coupons?" asked the  
usher.

"I didn't get any," replied the poet. One  
of Fame's cherished sons was the victim  
of the "Standing Room Only" sign.  
Elmore moved quietly to the left side of  
the theater and leaned against the wall.  
The orchestra began its soft cadences and  
the poet watched and waited. The curtain  
disclosed the wise men and the star. El-  
more stood awed by its magnificence. The  
curtain fell, ending the prelude.

"Pretty well patterned after the old

thuslastically. "Those were just like the  
old Roman galleries. Yes, I've seen 'em  
before. We had a play over to Craw-  
fordsville once that had the Roman gal-  
lery in it, and they were just like these.  
Yes, that's all right."

The poet subsided. He then removed  
his overcoat and sat on his heel in the  
aisle between acts. After a few mo-  
ments of restfulness he again arose and  
began peering into the audience to find  
somebody that he knew.

"I guess I know pretty nearly every-  
body here to-night," he said. "There's a  
lot of folks from Waynetown, Montgom-  
ery county, over in that place there. He  
pointed to a box on the opposite side of  
the house. Then he pointed out a "silk-  
headed man" that he had known since he  
was a boy. Over there were the Brown  
boys and their sweethearts. He had  
known them since they were children.  
He wondered where the college boys had  
gone to. Oh, yes, they were up-stairs. He  
sort of wished that he could be up there  
with them.

A Chance to Lecture.

Just then somebody called him into the  
foyer. A local lecture promoter wanted  
to make a contract with the bard for a  
recital in the theater on some night after  
'Ben-Hur' closed.

"Yes, I'll lecture all right," said the  
poet enthusiastically. "But I wish you  
wouldn't make the time right away. You  
see I had a lecture and somebody stole  
my book. I'm working to get up another so as  
to be ready pretty soon. I just don't  
stole my other book."

"What do you do at your lectures?"

"Oh, I read my pieces and whistle like  
a quail and give the yodel."

"Can you yodel?"

"Oh, yes; I do that well. I've got all of  
my new poems ready to put in the lec-

ture. You see, I can read my own poems  
better than anybody else can. I just put  
it all over a Wabash professor a while  
back. He thought he was a reader. But  
he isn't. He hasn't got the voice to bring  
out that mellow sweetness like I have."

"Do you ever recite Riley's poems?"

"No; Riley's poems are too stiff. They  
don't appeal to nature. Now, for instance,  
take my piece about 'Ben-Hur.' I wrote  
that poem before it was dramatized. See  
how true to nature it is. Remember the  
lines? Something like this:

"Hail, Benjamin Hur! Where goest thou?  
Like a divorced wife to the stage just now.  
What is to be done that you are so arrayed?  
The show has just begun on dress parade."

"You know that in the arena I fame have won,  
So on the stage the race I'll run;  
Bring in the orchestra and start the play  
And behold my steeds so fleet and gay."

"Grap those lines, old hero, sir,  
And show us the mettle of Benjamin Hur.  
Melchisedec of old had no more praise,  
With no beginning of time nor end of days."

The poet then swung into the excite-  
ment of the race:

"Hurrah! Hurrah! They go! And Benjamin is  
forcing ahead!"  
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Elmore is a well-to-do farmer, being  
worth about \$25,000. It is said. He has  
three children, but a daughter is married,  
one son teaches school and the other son  
is still at home.

The case of Della Farley is one of those  
that are cited to show the injustice of  
having the Women's Prison and Girls' In-  
dustrial School under one roof. That she  
was an orphan was her offense.

Mr. Elmore says the Christian church at  
Waveland, when it found the girl was  
without anyone to care for her, had her  
sent to the school.

A Visit to the News.

Poet Elmore visited The News office  
this morning and during an inspired mo-  
ment wrote the following poetic com-  
ment on the play "Ben-Hur":

The play of Ben-Hur, so racy and rare,  
Is ever beyond my power to compare.  
It has never been rivaled by the pen of man.  
The great acting scene is beautiful, so true,  
Every scene in the play will surely please.  
From the star in the east to healing disease,  
Facing Ben-Hur came out with a score.  
The racing Ben-Hur will live evermore.

The Governor Asked to Parole an In-  
mate of Girls' Industrial School.

James B. Elmore, of Montgomery  
county, to-day called at the State House  
to ask the Governor to parole Della Far-  
ley from the Girls' Industrial School.

Della Farley, who is now nineteen years  
old, was left an orphan, and about five  
years ago was sent to the Girls' Indus-

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